Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an oral dosage form containing a bisphosphonic acid or a salt thereof and an inactive ingredient selected from: an ester of a medium chain fatty acid, or a lipophilic polyethylene glycol ester, said inactive ingredient having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from about 1 to about 30.

Claim 2. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein said bisphosphonic acid or salts thereof is a bone resorption inhibitor.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said bone resorption inhibitor is useful in treating or preventing osteoporosis or diseases related to irregular osteoclast activity.

Claim 4. (Currently amendedl) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said bisphosphonic acid or a salt thereof may be selected from the group consisting of of ibandronate, alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, and tiludronate or a salt thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 wherein said bisphosphonic acid or a salt thereof is zoledronic acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said inactive ingredient is a propylene glycol monoester of medium chain fatty acids ~~(primarily caprylic acid)~~.

Claim 7. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 6 wherein said inactive ingredient has an HLB of 4.4.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 wherein said inactive ingredient is D-alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said inactive ingredient is a combination of is a propylene

glycol monoester of medium chain fatty acids (primarily caprylic acid) and D-alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~to any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said dose of bisphosphonic acid or salt thereof is in the range of from about 0.01 mg/kg to about 500 mg/kg.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said dose of bisphosphonic acid or salt thereof is in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said dose of bisphosphonic acid or salt thereof is in the range of from about 0.2 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method of treatment comprising administering an oral dosage form according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in order to provide increased bioavailability or increased tolerability of said bisphosphonic acid or salt thereof.

Claim 14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein said increased bioavailability is measured as increased absolute bioavailability.

Claim 15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said absolute bioavailability is in the range of from about 1% to about 50%.

Claim 16. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said absolute bioavailability is in the range of from about 2.5% to about 30%.

Claim 17. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said absolute bioavailability is in the range of from about 7.5% to about 20%.

Claim 18. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said increased bioavailability is measured in said subject as a blood level Cmax in the range of from about 1 to about 16,000 ng/mL.

Claim 19. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said increased bioavailability is measured in said subject as a blood level Cmax in the range of from about 10 to about 8,000 ng/mL.

Claim 20. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said increased bioavailability is measured in said subject as a blood level AUC (0-24Hr) in the range of from about 100 to about 40,000 ng/hr/mL.

Claim 21. (Original) A method according to claim l4 wherein said increased bioavailability is measured in said subject as a blood level AUC (0-24Hr) in the range of from about 100 to about 20,000 ng/hr/mL.

Claim 22. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said increased tolerability is measured as reduced gastrointestinal toxicity.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A method of treatment comprising administering a dosage form according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1 in order to provide increased bioavailability and increased tolerability of said bisphosphonic acid or salts thereof.

Claim 24. (Original) A process for preparing a formulation as defined in claim 1 comprising: suspending the bisphosphonic acid or a salt thereof in the inactive ingredient to produce a dispersion; and encapsulating the dispersion.

Claim 25. (Original) A process according to claim 23 wherein the inactive ingredient is pre-heated prior to suspending the bisphosphonic acid or salt thereof.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~ wherein the dispersion is encapsulated in gelatin capsules.

Claim 27. (New) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein said inactive ingredient is caprylic acid.